

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2014
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR MAY 23, 2014

FRIDAY REPORT



- 1. Happy Public Works Week!** – On Saturday, May 17, we hosted an Open House at our Public Works & Parks Maintenance Facility to kick off National Public Works Week. National Public Works Week is from May 18 to 24. The purpose of the Open House was to educate interested residents about the importance of the Public Works profession, provide an opportunity to show the residents their facility, and excite those who were in attendance about the public services we provide. We have received multiple notes of gratitude from those attending and are grateful for those who organized the event. Special thanks to all the Public Works and Parks employees who came in on a beautiful Saturday to host the event. They did a wonderful job and represented the City of Edina with pride.
- 2. Students on Commissions** – Forty-six students have already applied to serve on a Board or Commission for next year. Applications are due at the end of May. On Thursday, May 22, Project Coordinator MJ Lamon met with nine of our current student members to learn more about their experience to date and to solicit ideas for the future.
- 3. 50th & France Improvements** – Bids for the 50th & France Parking Ramp and Wayfinding Improvement Project were opened on Thursday, May 22. There were four separate contracts and the sum of all of the contracts came in \$480,870 lower than the engineer's estimates. Staff is reviewing references on the individual contracts and will offer a recommendation at the June 3 City Council meeting, but is encouraged with the early results.
- 4. 2014 Taste of Edina** – The Taste of Edina was a great success, with an estimated attendance of 531. This was the first year at the Edina Westin Galleria, which worked well given the cool weather. The annual Edina Liquor spring sale, featuring items from the Taste of Edina, continues through the end of May.
- 5. Vision 2040 Project** – City staff have selected FutureIQ as the recommended partner for the City's visioning project. Staff will meet with FutureIQ to discuss the project in greater detail Wednesday, May 28. Council members are scheduled to meet with FutureIQ at the June 17 work session.
- 6. 54th Street Project** – As I mentioned at this week's City Council meeting, staff opened bids for the 54th Street project on May 13 and received one bidder. The bid was \$1.2 million or 60 percent higher than our estimate. Staff will recommend City Council reject the bid at the June 3 City Council meeting. In staff's conversations with those in the contracting community, we have learned that the volume of construction work this year is high and most contractors are at or above their capacity. Staff will reexamine this project to see if there are ways to get it more in line with our estimates. One of those

options is to consider building the bridge this year and the remainder of the project next year, or constructing the entire project next year. Residents will be notified of our recommendations prior to the June 3 City Council Meeting.

7. **Hazelton Road Project** – The second stage of the Hazelton Road Project will begin on May 29. This will require a temporary complete closure of Hazelton Road at France Avenue. Access to the local businesses will be from York Avenue using 70th Street. There will be a posted detour, and we will be working with the contractor to reopen Hazelton as soon as possible.
8. **Olinger Road** – Olinger Road south of Vernon Avenue was closed to traffic this week for the CenterPoint Energy Pipe Integrity Project. The road will be reopened for the holiday weekend. The road closure will be re-instated next week to allow CenterPoint to continue its project.
9. **Employee News** – On Monday, May 19, Lt. Jeff Elasky was promoted to the position of Deputy Police Chief. Jeff began his career with the City in 1989 as a part-time Community Service Officer and later became full-time in 1992 as an Animal Control Officer. Throughout the years, he has had many promotions with the city and held the positions of Police Officer, Sergeant and Lieutenant. Prior to working for the City of Edina, Jeff worked at Scott County Sheriff's Department as a part-time Deputy Sheriff.
10. **New Interns** – Two new interns started their assignments in the Police Department this week: Community Health Intern Patrick Stark and Police Intern Dane Mosman. Also, Lauryn Grimes began work this week as Communications Intern in the Communications & Technology Services Department.
11. **Strachauer Park** – This week, Strachauer Park neighbors met to discuss forming a Neighborhood Association. Every household received a notification postcard and was invited to attend. The group voted to form the Strachauer Park Neighborhood Association and has submitted all required paperwork. Their application is currently being reviewed and is expected to be approved shortly! This increases the total number of recognized neighborhood associations to four.
12. **Vets Memorial** – The proposed \$225,000 appropriation for the Edina Veterans Memorial is included in the bonding bill that was approved by the Minnesota House. The Governor has indicated that he will sign the bill.
13. **Edina IQS** – As you may be aware, staff have launched an employee training initiative that we call Edina IQS. Edina IQS (Integrity, Quality and Service) are the City's new internal values. To support the value of service, an eight-member employee team is working on internal customer service training. The team recently met with representatives from the Minneapolis Park Board, Quality Bicycle Products and the City of Durham, North Carolina (via the web), to learn more about how they approach customer service training for their staff.
14. **Small Area Planning** – City staff and the Planning Commission will review plans for a small area planning process at Wooddale Ave and Valley View Road on Wednesday, May 28. A community kickoff meeting has been tentatively scheduled for June 18.
15. **Reserve Officers Graduate** – Seven of our Reserve Officers graduated from the Hennepin County Reserve Officer

School this week. They participated in 40 hours of training over the past seven weeks. When you see Ken Varble, Dave Norr, Craig Baumeister, Amber Kittleson, Ryan Elasky, Jason Elasky and Aleck Williams, please congratulate them!